MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

27 APRIL 1981

Lebanon

Israeli Raid, Shelling in South--Beirut radio reported that Israeli planes raided targets in the Sidon and An-Nabatiyah areas during the afternoon of 26 April, hitting residential areas and causing over 40 casualties. IDF radio said the Israeli planes hit Palestinian military targets and all returned safely to base. Damascus radio reported that Syrian planes shot down two Israeli aircraft for the loss of one Syrian plane, but Jerusalem radio denied that any Syrian-Israeli dogfight had taken place and later reported that a Syrian MiG-23 had been downed accidentally by a Palestinian surface-to-air missile. Beirut and Voice of Hope radios reported shelling along the border strip on 24 and 25 April. Jerusalem radio disclosed that Israel has provided the Christians in the south with "shelters."

Beirut, Zahlah Situations--Voice of Palestine reported that the situation exploded in Beirut on 25 April. Beirut radio said the fighting died down later in the evening. Voice of Lebanon radio reported that Beirut airport remained closed owing to shell damage. On the same day, the radio said Syrian MiG aircraft strafed the Sannin heights near Zahlah while their helicopter-borne forces attempted to take the French edoubt, a former French mountain observation post. According to AFP, forces of the leftist People's National Socialist Party have also been involved in the attempt to dislodge the Phalangists from this position. Voice of Palestine reported that Arab Deterrent Forces (ADF) had consolidated their control over these positions by the evening of 25 April, despite a Phalangist counterattack. Voice of Lebanon said fighting for the Sannin heights continued on 26 April while Syrian forces renewed their attacks on Qa' ar-Rim, near Zahlah, on the same day. However, on 27 April the radio said the deployment of Lebanese Army units in upper Sannin had eased tension there.

The deployment of Lebanese Army units in this area followed a 24 April meeting of Lebanese and Syrian officials in Shtawrah, reported by Beirut radio, in which they agreed that Lebanese security forces should take control of Zahlah and its international roads, prohibiting any other armed presence inside the city. According to Voice of Palestine, the agreement permits ADF forces to remain on the ridges surrounding Zahlah. Another report by the radio said the agreement could not be implemented until the return of Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus from Damascus, where, according to Damascus radio, he met Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and his Syrian counterpart, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, on 26 April. Beirut radio said Butrus returned to Lebanon on the same day after describing his talks with the Syrians as "useful, positive and fruitful." Khaddam said he will visit Beirut shortly to promote a national dialogue and national accord in Lebanon, the radio reported.

Both Voice of Palestine and Damascus radios have accused the Phalangists of receiving outside assistance, the former charging that Egyptian senior officers have arrived in eastern Beirut to advise the rightists and the latter claiming that French military supplies and a team of French mercenaries have arrived in Beirut and Juniyah to help the Phalangists.

Syria

Al-Asad Speech--In a 26 April speech to the Peasants Federation congress in Damascus, broadcast live by Damascus radio, President al-Asad strongly attacked the Jordanian regime, which, he said, was established to dismember Arab Syria and has always been its enemy. Charging that Jordan has stabbed Syria in the back through its support for the Muslim Brotherhood, Al Asad warned King Husayn that very soon the Jordanian people will regain their right to make decisions and then the Syrians will join their Jordanian kinfolk.

Hamah Disturbances--Voice of Lebanon radio reported on 24 April that, following a hand-grenade attack on intelligence service vehicles, Syrian Army units had isolated the city

of Hamah in an attempt to flush out opposition groups with artillery and rocket fire. On 26 April the radio said fighting between the Muslim Brotherhood and special squads was continuing in the city.

Libya

TASS reported that Libyan leader Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi arrived in Moscow for an official visit to the Soviet Union.

Kuwait

Kuwait radio broadcast the text of a joint Kuwaiti-Soviet communique issued at the end of Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah's 23-25 April visit to the Soviet Union during which he held talks with his Soviet counterpart, Andrey Gromyko, and with Soviet Council of Ministers First Deputy Chairman Ivan Arkhipov. The communique said the two sides supported the holding of an international conference on the Middle East with the participation of the PLO on an equal footing with other parties. They condemned Israel's aggressive operations against its Arab neighbors and measures to consolidate its hold over occupied Arab territories. They also condemned Israeli measures to change the status of Jerusalem. Regarding the Gulf, the two sides supported the right of Gulf countries to guarantee Gulf security and dispose freely of their natural resources by themselves and without any foreign interference. They announced opposition to foreign military bases and nuclear weapons in the region and to all forms of foreign interference in the internal affairs of Gulf states. Gromyko has accepted a Kuwaiti offer to visit Kuwait, the communique noted in conclusion. According to a KUNA report on the talks, Shaykh as-Sabah also called for an end to Soviet pressure in Afghanistan and tried to dispel Soviet doubts about the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Qatar

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher arrived in Qatar from Oman on 24 April, the GULF NEWS AGENCY reported. According to ONA, she held talks on 25 April with Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani and other leading officials. A Foreign Ministry press release issued at the end of the visit and reported by QNA said that during the talks the amir had emphasized that the Palestinian problem is the crux of the Middle East crisis. He had also stressed that it is in both regional and international interests to keep the Gulf region out of big power conflicts and for the region's security to remain the responsibility of its governments and people. Thatcher held a press conference before leaving Doha, the GULF NEWS AGENCY reported, at which she said the European states will continue developing their initiative on the Middle East, concentrating on solving the Palestinian problem. She added that she believes the Soviet Union poses the greatest threat to the Gulf region. Thatcher left Doha for home on 25 April, the agency said.

Reaction to AWACS Sale

Citing AL-AHRAM, MENA reported that Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has welcomed the U.S. administration's decision to supply AWACS planes to Saudi Arabia. He added that Egypt believes the sale is vital to the strengthening of regional security. Cairo radio commentary said Israel is angry about the sale, not because it represents any danger to Israel's security, but because it represents a change from the "total allegiance" of the United States to Israel. In this respect, the commentary said, Israel's interests coincide with those of the Soviet Union, because both want to prevent U.S.-Arab rapprochement. The Amman English-language JORDAN TIMES also welcomed the decision, seeing it as a sign of the U.S. administration's strength. It warned, however, that the "real test" of U.S. policy in the region is yet to come and that the American people will have to decide whether they want to be answerable to Israel for their foreign and domestic policies.

According to Tehran radio, Iran's Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri suggested to a Friday prayer gathering in Qom that the planes are intended for use against Iran. According to

his reasoning, since the AWACS are being supplied to Saudi Arabia only on the condition that it recognize Israel and not intervene in Palestine, "this means nothing other than that these aircraft must be used" against Iran.

Egypt

As-Sadat Interview--In an interview with the chief editor of OCTOBER magazine, carried textually by MENA, President Anwar as-Sadat said he would have "no qualms at all" about joining NATO. Referring to the examples of Great Britain, Greece and Turkey, As-Sadat said the United States does not use its NATO bases in these countries to undermine their sovereignty. Nevertheless, he reiterated that Egypt does not want U.S. bases on its territory. As-Sadat strongly welcomed the sale of U.S. arms to Saudi Arabia, saying he would be the "happiest man" if the Saudis acquire AWACS aircraft. Despite Saudi Arabia's public opposition to U.S. bases on its territory, As-Sadat said, the Saudis had privately asked for them but lacked the courage to announce this openly owing to their fear of Iraq, Syria and the Palestinians. As-Sadat revealed in his remarks that he has accepted Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri's invitation to visit Sudan on its national day.

Van der Klaauw Visit--EC Council Chairman Christoph van der Klaauw arrived in Cairo on 24 April, MENA reported, for talks on the Middle East problem. According to MENA, he held talks with Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali on the 25th, after which 'Ali said they had agreed that European moves in the Middle East must complement the Camp David accords. 'Ali said he had told Van der Klaauw that Europe should help build trust between the Palestinians and Israel and should demand that Israel take measures to build such trust. Cairo radio reported that Van der Klauuw also met with President as-Sadat.

Inter-Arab Affairs

At the end of 2 days of talks in Fes, the Jerusalem Committee issued a list of resolutions including the recommendation that the new U.S. administration be told of the Islamic countries' denunciation of U.S. policy in the Middle East and be warned that continuation of this policy will harm U.S. relations with the Islamic world. The resolutions, read by Moroccan minister of State M'hamed Boucetta and broadcast by Rabat radio, also urged that Western states be contacted in an effort to convince them to recognize the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to recognize the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinians. They recommended steps to bring an end to Jewish immigration into Israel, to expel the Israeli Labor Party from the Socialist International and to pass a UN resolution that will lead to Israel's expulsion from the United Nations unless it implements UN resolutions on the Middle East. Rabat radio had noted earlier that two members of the committee, Syria and Iran, did not send representatives to the meeting.

Iran

Nabavi on Clashes, Arms Deal--In an interview broadcast by Tehran radio, Minister of State for Executive Affairs Behzad Nabavi blamed opponents of the revolution for causing recent clashes and disturbances throughout Iran. He accused them of trying to take advantage of the absence of most revolution guards, who are at the front, and of disputes among officials. He added that the main obstacle to preventing disturbances is that Iran's officials have not yet adopted a decisive, specific policy regarding political groups and political freedoms. Speaking of the $56-million fraudulent arms deal in which Iran was involved, Nabavi said Iran has been forced to take certain risks in purchasing arms when it needs them for the front. He asserted that it has suffered no great harm by taking such risks and predicted that Iran will be able to recover the money lost in the arms swindle.

Oil Production--According to Tehran radio, the Oil Ministry announced that Iran produced an average of more than 1.6 million barrels of oil per day during the first 6 months of the "past year." It added that the country's oil-refining capacity has increased to an average of 1 million barrels per day.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Tehran radio reported fierce fighting through the weekend in the Bazi Deraz heights of the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region and claimed that so far more than 1,000 Iraqis have been killed or wounded on that front. It also reported that Iranian forces captured two more hills in the area and that one Iraqi MiG and one helicopter were downed in the area on 26 April. Other Tehran radio reports said that clashes occurred in the Owraman region and on the Dezful front in which 150 Iraqis were killed. Iranian Air Force planes, the radio reported, bombed Iraqi Army supply depots in the Basra region. Iraqi General Command communiques, carried by INA and Baghdad radio, confirmed the heavy fighting in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region, claiming that almost 700 Iranian troops have been killed there.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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KARMAL SAWR REVOLUTION ANNIVERSARY SPEECH

LD270330 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 26 Apr 81

[Speech by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, chairman of the DRA Revolution Council and prime minister, at the 26 April extraordinary session of the Revolution Council in Kabul's Gol Khanah Hall to mark the third anniversary of the Sawr Revolution--live or recorded]

[Text] Noble compatriots, toiling and Muslim people of Afghanistan, comrades and friends: I extend the most sincere greetings and congratulations on the occasion of the third anniversary of the liberating Sawr Revolution to the toiling and noble people of revolutionary Afghanistan on behalf of the PDPA Central Committee, the Revolution Council, the DRA Government and myself.

Three years have passed since the active power of the [word indistinct] despots and exploiters was ended by the victory of the national-democratic Sawr Revolution and since the sovereign ruling power of the Afghan masses was created. The victory of the Sawr Revolution, which thrust our society into the current of great revolutionary changes, was a great turning point in the long history of our land. It has prepared the way for our country's liberation from backwardness and for the creation of a society based on true social justice. [applause]

The principled foreign policy of the PDPA and the DRA Government is based on peace and friendship; peaceful coexistence between peoples; cooperation and understanding with all countries; equal rights; mutual respect among countries; respect for sovereignty, national independence and territorial integrity; noninterference in each other's domestic affairs; respect for the right of nations to determine their own destiny; nonalignment; respect for the UN Charter and resolute support for revolutionary and anti-imperialist movements all over the world.

Under the present conditions and considering the world situation, which, as a result of the adventurous policies of reaction and imperialism is being dragged toward the dark clouds of tension, arms race and the danger of war, we consider disarmament, the struggle for peace, relaxation of tensions and the limitation of the arms race as the major duties of all mankind.

We believe that in the present complicated situation, the world struggle for the success of the peace program in the current decade, which was initiated in the statement of L.I. Brezhnev at the 26th CPSU Congress, can be an (?effective or key) measure in the struggle for all-round peace in the 1980's. [applause] We support this program and, together with all peace-loving forces of the world, will continue our struggle for its implementation.

Dear compatriots and friends: Based on the principled, peaceful foreign policy of the DRA, we have initiated important measures during the past year in our relations with neighboring countries. On 14 May 1980 the DRA Government initiated a specific program for normalizing the regional situation. In continuing these initiatives we have put forward other constructive and complementary proposals through the press and publications and through official messages to the Islamic Conference Organization meeting held in At-Ta'if and the Nonaligned Foreign Ministers Conference in Delhi.

We expressed our complete readiness for the settlement of our differences through bilateral negotiations. We can say that the DRA Government, in every way, has made extensive efforts for the purpose of normalizing the regional situation, efforts which clearly manifest our peace-loving foreign policy. We have taken the necessary steps, now it is up to the rulers of the neighboring countries, that is, Pakistan and Iran, to determine to what extent they consider their responsibilities towards normalizing the regional situation, how they comprehend the situation, and what practical answers they will give to our constructive proposals.

The friendship and brotherhood between the Afghan people and the toiling people of the Islamic World has always existed, is broadening and is getting better. The great masses of world Muslims resolutely support the Afghan revolution. It is solely the servant circles of reaction and imperialism who, shamelessly and in vain, hatch conspiracies against the toiling Afghan people. We will continue, firmly and without deviation, our principled regional and global foreign policy. We will not let anyone interfere in the destiny of our society and the path which our people have chosen.

We once again severely condemn the efforts of imperialism, headed by criminal U.S. imperialism, to intensify tension and the arms race, to create and expand military bases, and (?to employ) new military forces against the national liberation movements. We also condemn all international terrorist measures created by the imperialist forces against the peoples of the world, the sharpest edge of which is directed toward the revolutionary forces. Regional peace and security demand that the peoples of the world resolutely state with a powerful voice to international and warmongering imperialism, headed by U.S. imperialism: Get out of the Middle East, the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean! Stop sending arms to Pakistan! Stop sending mercenary murderers, counterrevolutionaries and aggressors to revolutionary Afghanistan!

The PDPA and the DRA Government highly respect all countries who support the liberating revolution of our people, in particular the socialist countries, headed by the peace-loving Soviet Union. In the future we also will continue to expand these relations, which are a major factor in repulsing foreign aggression and safeguarding the freedom, independence and social progress of our country.

In accordance with the DRA Basic Principles, a premier must be appointed to chair the Council of Ministers, and the government apparatus and administration must be changed to make them true servants of the toiling people of Afghanistan. It is the duty of the party Central Committee and the Revolution Council to take the necessary measures.

Dear compatriots, we are facing difficult conditions. On the one hand there is the heavy inheritance of the past, and on the other hand the enemies of the Afghan revolution--which includes internal counterrevolution, regional reaction, and imperialism, headed by U.S. imperialism in collusion with the heretical hegemonists in Beijing--still continue to create obstacles on the path of our revolution. These are all factors which add to our troubles. Nevertheless, the successes which we have gained in the course of revolutionary struggle are positive and great.

The current struggle against the counterrevolution is testimony to the success of the revolutionary forces and our great victories. The counterrevolutionaries, the enemies of the Afghan people, have been defeated, but what we must not hide is that to date they have not been eliminated. Our struggle is still continuing to cleanse the sacred skirt of the homeland of the foul existence of the counterrevolutionary criminal bands, thieves and brigands. During the past year we succeeded in adopting serious measures. We succeeded in coordinating regular revolutionary units in the country against the counterrevolutionary elements. In this great fight all national and progressive forces in the country, led by members of our party, have determinedly gone to the battlefronts to defend the revolution in order to completely eliminate the enemies of the revolution. This fact is an important experience for our party and, as a whole, for the revolutionary movements of our country. During the past year our heroic armed forces, the police and revolutionary security forces of Afghanistan have proved their sufficient skill and revolutionary capability in the struggle against counterrevolutionary elements.

The patriotic armed forces, who played a prominent role in the victory of the Sawr Revolution and in toppling the antipopular regime, have proved their complete readiness to resolutely defend the revolution and safeguard national independence, national sovereignty and the territorial integrity of Afghanistan against foreign conspiracies. Thousands of our toiling compatriots have organized themselves into revolution defense groups in order to maintain the security of their areas and regions and to struggle against the rebels. They are heroically fighting for the defense of the gains of the revolution shoulder to shoulder with our heroic armed forces, police, members of the PDPA and social organizations.

I would like to inform you that this very day, today, the Revolution Council Presidium made a very important decision: In order to further help the country's farmers, the land taxes levied for 1979 and 1980, which amounted to over 722 million afghanis, have been remitted; 860,000 peasant families, a total of 4.3 million people, will benefit from this government assistance. [applause]

The Presidium of the DRA Revolution Council has freed 706 political prisoners, and once again declares that the warm arms of the Afghan motherland are open to the true sons of the country. Those who lay down their arms and do not disrupt the peace and security of the country will be treated justly.

Dear compatriots, we courageously declare that there are many unsolved problems before us, but our revoution is capable of resolving the unsolved questions in practice. We will continue our sincere and principled struggle toward implementing the goals of the revolution and maintaining deep social, economic and cultural changes. Before everything else, however, we must embark on the resolute repulsion of foreign aggression which is the main obstacle in the path of the speedy development of our revolution.

The solution to most of the questions of the revolution depends on maintaining complete security in the country and preventing criminal aggression by imperialism and regional reaction. We will continue to fight against counterrevolution until its complete elimination. [applause] With confidence we can say that victory in the struggle is ours. It is on the side of the heroic, toiling and Muslim people of Afghanistan. [applause] The counterrevolutionary force must know that the present conditions are deeply, historically different from the era of the Amani Movement, which was crushed due to the conspiracies of the internal and external reactionary forces. The dark reactionary forces, under the [words indistinct] support of colonialism and imperialism, were able to crush the Amani Movement. Today they cannot put into practice the experiences of several decades ago in another form against the national revolutionary forces.

Now a powerful revolutionary party and a conscious and aware (?body) leads our society. The liberating Afghan Armed Forces and our free people are defending the revolution like a steel fist. [applause] The thinking of our people is no longer similar to the way of thinking of half a century ago. Now the powerful socialist camp, headed by the great country of the Soviets, exists, which constitutes a firm and reliable pillar of peace and progress in the world. [applause] Now there are many reasons that distinguish the present conditions from the time of the Amani Movement. The course of revolutionary changes affirms this clear fact of our society. The Afghan revolution is invincible. [applause] The power of this invincibility is constituted of the unbreakable will of the majority of the toiling and Muslim people of Afghanistan towards the defense of the liberating gains of the revolution and the resolute support of the forces of peace and progress in the world. Despite all the ups and downs we are getting closer, step by step, to final victory by way of the struggle our party has chosen. We are used to difficulties and are experienced in overcoming them. [applause]

KARMAL ADDRESSES KONARHA TRIBESMEN IN KABUL

LD252215 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 25 Apr 81

[Text] Babrak Karmal, secretary general of the PDPA Central Committee, chairman of the Revolution Council and premier of the DRA, received this afternoon at the Gol Khanah Palace, the Revolution Council's headquarters, representives and elders of the brave Sofi tribe of Konarha's Sholgara border valley.

A few verses of the holy Koran were read at the beginning and then Babrak Karmal addressed the audience in a comprehensive unscripted speech which was received with fervor and applause by the audience.

In his speech Babrak Karmal said: First of all I welcome you to Kabul and in particular to the Revolution Council's headquarters. We are meeting together here in a tribal jirgah, in accordance with our customs and tradition, that we may exchange views. These tribal jirgahs are a great legacy from our forefathers. At these meetings we fraternally resolve all problems.

Babrak Karmal said: I have met with many of Konarha's martyr-giving tribes. Our forefathers engaged the British, our old enemy, on three occasions in order to safeguard our national pride, independence and territorial integrity. Imperialism, the traditional and recognized enemy of Afghanistan, however, is still devising wicked plans for the backwardness of Afghanistan and creating obstacles in the path of our revolution. This is a fact and all should know it. I had to tell you of this.

After explaining the wicked actions of international imperialism, chauvinism and reaction in the Arab countries, particularly Palestine, Babrak Karmal said: Britain, China and America are struggling to wipe out Islam in the Arab countries but are defending Islam in our country. This is merely a trick just as in the time of Amanullah Ghazi [an Afghan king in the 1920's] when they used similar tricks; then they accused Amanullah Ghazi of blasphemy and other things.

Throwing light on the repressive government of Ziaul Haq, Babrak Karmal said: Who are those persons who are being trained in the Pakistani military camps? Who are their leaders? We should thoroughly investigate this matter and identify them. What sorts of crimes have they not committed in the name of Islam? Like thieves and smugglers they bring the arms which they receive from America, China and Egypt and other reactionary and imperialist countries across the borders into our country in order to kill our fathers, mothers, sisters and children with them. They burn our mosques, schools and hospitals and destroy factories and (?depots) with bombs. Is this wor'. which a Muslim would perform? This is the work only of enemies and no one else.

Babrak Karmal added: We want to defend a revolution which has taken place by the will of the mass of our people. We want to build a free, prosperous country--a country free from man's exploitation of man. The aim of your government, your party and the National Fatherland Front is to maintain peace and security here, not only in our country but also in the region and in the world. Such tasks cannot be accomplished in days or even a year. Based on your unity and solidarity we will build our country in such a way that the whole Afghan nation will live in it in peace and calm.

The BAKHTAR correspondent adds: At this meeting Haji Mohammad Yosef made a speech on behalf of the representatives and elders of the Sofi tribe of Konarha's Sholgara border valley, supporting and endorsing Babrak Karmal's explanations. At the end of the speeches a resolution was adopted by the audience and was read to them.

REVOLUTION COUNCIL RELEASES 706 POLITICAL PRISONERS

LD262108 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 26 Apr 81

[Text] The office of the DRA Revolution Council reports that on the occasion of the third anniversary of the Sawr Revolution, on the basis of the lofty and humane aspirations of the PDPA and in the course of the humanitarian aims of our revolutionary government, 706 political prisoners in the capital and in the provinces have been freed.

The prisoners were released in accordance with paragraph 6, article 43 of the DRA Basic Principles, on the proposal of the Revolution Special Prosecution Office, ratified by the Revolution Council Presidium and approved by Prime Minister Karmal.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Interior reports that on the occasion of the third anniversary of the glorious Sawr Revolution, Prime Minister Karmal has remitted the remaining sentence for 194 criminal prisoners in the capital and provinces. The spokesman said the news of the prisoners' release has been communicated to the relevant sources.

CAPTURED REBEL HIJACKERS DETAIL FOILED PLOT

LD251230 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 24 Apr 81

[News conference conducted by foreign and domestic journalists with (Sayyed Habibullah), (Salehah) and (Akbar), who attempted the 15 April hijacking of an Ariana Boeing 727 in Qandahar, at the Stor Palace of the DRA Foreign Ministry on 23 April; identity of respective respondents unknown--recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] I am from BAKHTAR. When and to where did you wish to fly and how were you captured by the country's security forces?

[Answer] We wanted to fly on Wednesday 15 April from Qandahar to Kabul and were arrested by the security forces at Qandahar Airport.

[Question] I am from ANIS. How and aboard which plane did you arrive in Qandahar?

[Answer] We left Kabul on Monday [presumably 13 April] for Qandahar. Our aim was to hijack the Ariana plane in accordance with the instructions that we had previously been given.

[Question] I represent HAQIQAT-E SERBAZ. When did you plan the hijacking and how did you plan to carry it out?

[Answer] The hijacking plan had been previously arranged in Pakistan. We were instructed by the authorities of the so-called Islamic Society of Afghanistan [ISA] to hijack this plane. Of course, we received these instructions in Pakistan from the so-called ISA. The leader of this organization is a person by the name of Burhanuddin Rabbani.

[Question] I represent the YOUTH BANNER, organ of the Democratic Youth of Afghanistan Organization Central Council. What was the purpose of this hijacking?

[Answer] The leadership made this proposal to us. It is obvious that following the hijacking of the Pakistani plane earlier this month, which landed at Kabul Airport, the Pakistani authorities bore a grudge against us and it was on the basis of their resentment that the Pakistani authorities contacted the Islamic Society of Afghanistan. On the basis of promises made to the ISA a number of our youth were to be recruited to implement this scheme. So, in accordance with the designs of the Pakistani authorities, we were compelled by the society to engage in this action and hijack the Ariana plane. Of course, it is obvious that the Pakistani authorities bore a grudge and this action was viewed as a retaliation.

[Question] How and where did you plan to hijack the Ariana plane?

[Answer] We received prior instructions. We left Kabul for Pakistan accompanied by an agent of the ISA. When we arrived in Pakistan we received a very warm welcome and were called heroes. We were told that we were heroes for undertaking this mission. We went to see Rabbani, the leader of the ISA and he talked to us about a number of things including the preparation of our weapons: revolvers and bombs. He ordered his military committee to provide us with these bombs, after which we were to leave for Kabul. In the talk that we had with Rabbani he outlined a number of proposals and asked us to force this plane to the airport--to a Pakistani airport, no matter which one. He ordered his military committee to give us the weapons and after we collected them he gave us 4,000 kaldar, which is equivalent to nearly 18,000 afghanis. This was to cover our expenses connected with the mission. We then entered Afghanistan via Paktia, traversed Lowgar Province and then arrived in Kabul. In Kabul we set out to have chaplis [traditional footwear] made as we were instructed to carry the weapons inside the chaplis. The American bombs that we had been given were very heavy and large and we were unable to hide them inside the chaplis so we left them behind and relied on our revolvers alone. We had the chaplis made to order in Kabul and hid the weapons inside them.

Before ordering the chaplis we went to Panjshir in the company of an ISA agent. There we had a meeting with one of Rabbani's students and discussed the hijacking scheme. Like his teacher he also encouraged us and skillfully manipulated us to undertake this mission. He also gave us two bombs which we were to hide in the chaplis. We took these two bombs and returned to Kabul. In Kabul we hid these two bombs and the revolvers inside our chaplis.

When all this was done we sent one of our informants to Qandahar to buy plane tickets and then left for Qandahar. After spending 2 days in Qandahar we went to the airport where we were arrested by the Qandahar security authorities.

[Question indistinct on what was to happen if the hijackers had succeeded]

[Answer] Our aim was to land the plane at Quetta Airport, which is the nearest Pakistani airport to Qandahar. Rabbani had told us that he would contact us there. He was to have obtained permission from the Pakistani authorities about landing the plane at Quetta Airport. The plan was that he would prepare the ground on the Pakistani side--get permission for us to land the plane at Quetta Airport. According to our instructions from Rabbani, after landing the plane at Quetta Airport he was to contact us and tell us his demands--demands that he had not revealed to us previously. He did not tell us what the demands were to be.

[Question] I am from the Uzbeki language ULDEZ GAZETTE. Your explanation reveals that the Pakistani Government had a direct part in the hijack operation. What is your opinion about this?

[Answer] Of course the Pakistani militarists intended to retaliate [for the hijacking of the Pakistani plane]. My personal view is that the Pakistani Government played a direct role in this. The reason why Rabbani did not tell us his demands was that he himself did not know the details of the demands. He was to receive instructions from the Pakistani authorities--his masters. He himself did not have the authority to state the demands.

[Question] BAKHTAR. Could you please explain in detail how the weapons and equipment were obtained and which authorities provided them?

[Answer] You can see the six revolvers in front of you. The six American grenades were too heavy and we could not bring them into Afghanistan so we were forced to return them. We obtained three revolvers from the ISA military committee and we brought the two Egyptian grenades from Panjshir.

[Question] I represent HAQIQAT-E SERBAZ. If you had succeeded in boarding the plane but the pilot had refused to meet your demands and had tried to resist, what action would you have taken? What instructions did you receive about this?

[Answer] If we had succeeded in boarding the plane and the Ariana pilot had tried to oppose us--either in the course of the flight or upon landing--then according to the instructions we received from Rabbani we were to blow up the plane. I was to have exploded a bomb in the cockpit and my friend Akbar, who was positioned at the rear of the plane, was to have exploded a bomb over there. These were the instructions we received from Rabbani and his student.

[Question--in English] LITERATURNAYA GAZETA. It was mentioned in your previous statement that the hijackers were supposed to be warmly received by the press and correspondents in Quetta, Pakistan. May I ask Mr Habib to tell us more about this part of the plan? Who told you about Mr Rabbani [words indistinct] maybe some Western correspondent who was informed earlier; maybe some American in Pakistan? You mentioned the Rabbani group receiving American arms--maybe from an informed American, please explain.

[Answer] The so-called ISA received weapons and ammunition from America, Egypt, and China. This reveals that they have links with these imperialist countries. This shows that Rabbani had prior contacts with the Pakistani authorities. Their contacts were not only with the Pakistani authorities, the Pakistani authorities have links with their masters and their masters certainly had information about this mission. The ISA has links with the Pakistani authorities and the Pakistani authorities have links with America, Egypt and China. This is obvious from the welcome we received. [when we arrived in Pakistan] Rabbani contacted the Pakistani authorities and the Pakistani authorities communicated this to their masters who naturally sent their correspondents to welcome us.

[Question] I am a correspondent from ENQELAB-E SAWR. According to a 1970 international treaty [words indistinct] anticipated for the hijackers. Did they inform you about your fate in the event that the hijacking was unsuccessful?

[Answer] Of course they wanted their objective to be fulfilled so as to please their masters. They did not say anything about our fate in the event of failure. They just wanted to achieve their objective and it made no difference if we were killed or if anything else happened to us.

AFP: PAKISTANI HIJACKERS RETURN TO KABUL VIA DELHI

BK250755 Hong Kong AFP in English 0740 GMT 25 Apr 81

[Text] New Delhi, 25 Apr (AFP)--Three Pakistanis who hijacked a Pakistani plane last month and successfully manoeuvred the release of 52 political prisoners, have reached Kabul aboard a Syrian aircraft after spending several hours at Delhi airport on April 20, the English daily, HINDUSTAN TIMES, reported today.

The paper said the sudden arrival of the hijackers, led by Salamullah Khan Tippu, alias 'Alamgir, along with 25 of the political prisoners, was kept secret by airport authorities to avoid "any diplomatic embarrassment" in Indo-Pakistan relations.

The authorities made frantic appeals to the Kabul authorities to accept the Syrian aircraft along with its passengers and the flight took off for Kabul the same evening. Noting that only a "wee bit of information on the day-long airport drama" was known, the paper said the hijackers and their friends were kept isolated in a secluded part of the airport while a political decision was being sought.

The hijackers and the prisoners, according to the paper, had earlier planned to confront the Indian Government with a fait accompli and stay on in India to indulge in anti-Pakistan activities. Syria, which jailed the hijackers after their surrender on March 15, was said to have decided to wash its hand of the matter by letting them leave the country. The paper said that at first the hijackers had insisted on staying on in India while the Indian Government tried without success to get "some other countries" to accept them. Ultimately, the paper added, the hijackers insisted on going to Kabul and the flight took off as Indian officials heaved a sigh of relief.

AFP REPORTS MURTAZA BHUTTO'S RETURN TO KABUL

BK241345 Hong Kong AFP in English 1333 GMT 24 Apr 81

[Excerpt] New Delhi, 24 Apr (AFP)--Murtaza Ali Bhutto, son of the executed Pakistani prime minister, Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, has returned to Afghanistan, diplomatic sources said here today. Mr Bhutto arrived in Kabul on April 17, the sources said. Mr Bhutto was in India before he left for Kabul.

AFP: FIGHTING CONTINUES FOR QANDAHAR CITY

OW252320 Hong Kong AFP in English 2305 GMT 25 Apr 81

[Excerpt] Peshawar, Pakistan, 26 Apr (AFP)--Fighting has again erupted in Qandahar city, after several days of lull since the Afghan rebels claimed "big successes" against the Soviet occupation troops, travellers reaching this border town said today.

As the situation deteriorated following last week's guerrilla attacks, the governor of Qandahar and his staff have moved to new quarters, the sources here said. The Soviet forces have bombed insurgents' concentrations in the suburbs, killing four women, while a helicopter machinegunned another women who died in an area about 2 km from the city, the travellers added. However, they also said that although the Moslem fighters were "better placed" than ever before, they were not in complete command of the whole city. Sporadic fighting which continued during the week has intensified as the Soviet troops, following initial losses, have started reinforcing their positions, they said. They added that Qandahar Airport, which has remained under government control, has been the scene of brisk aerial activity, with Soviet MiG's and helicopter gunships carrying out periodical sorties. The Soviets in the past few days have attacked mujahedeen stronghold Chahrbagh in the outskirts of Qandahar city to flush out guerillas, but the attack was repelled, Afghan rebels sources said.

Giving accounts of the past three weeks' fighting, the rebel sources said about 120 soldiers were killed and another 100 wounded. The rebels put their loses at 18 killed and 30 wounded. They confirmed that shifting of provincial administration and other government departments to a new cantonment in the garrison town was done in anticipation of mujahedeen attack, but they also feared it could be "a prelude to some big Soviet offensive to neutralise the Afghan rebels' gains."

BRIEFS

USSR GRAIN AGREEMENT--A contract for the purchase of 35,000 tons of grain was signed in Kabul today between the General Directorate of the Department of Foodstuffs and Cooperatives and the Soviet Vostokintorg foreign trade organization. The contract was signed for the Afghan side by engineer 'Aziz, general director of the department of foodstuffs and cooperatives and by (Valigroshkov), representative of the Soviet Vostokintorg organization. They exchanged the relevant documents. A spokesman for the Department of Foodstuffs and Cooperatives said that under the contract, 32,000 tons of grain will be delivered through Hayratan terminal and 3,000 tons through Shir Khan terminal during the fourth quarter of 1981. [Text] [Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 26 Apr 81 LD]

AMBASSADOR MEETS GROMYKO, DELIVERS GANDHI MESSAGE

BK250309 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Apr 81

[Text] In Moscow, Indian Ambassador V.K. Shuja called on Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko yesterday and handed over to him a message from Prime Minister Gandhi for President Brezhnev. Mrs Gandhi's message is understood to have related to a communication she had earlier received from the Soviet leader on his peace initiatives announced at the Soviet Communist Party's 26th Congress in February last. During their discussion, Mr Ahuja and Mr Gromyko exchanged views on the situation in South Asia and other matters of common interest.

CPI-M OFFERS SUPPORT FOR USSR INTERVENTION IN POLAND

BK261547 Calcutta ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA in Bengali 21 Apr 81 p 1

[By special correspondent]

[Text] New Delhi, 20 Apr--The Communist Party of India-Marxist [CPI-M] will support Soviet intervention in Poland, indicated E.M.S. Namboodiripad, the general secretary of the party today. He said: We supported the Soviet action in Czechoslovakia in 1968 and our role is going to be the same in the case of Poland.

There was no mention of Poland in the Politburo statement on national and international affairs. When asked why the Politburo remained silent on Poland, Namboodiripad said: Poland is situated far from our borders. Moreover, we believe that everyone knows our stand on Poland and that is why there was no mention of it in the statement.

When requested to give details of the CPI-M stand on Poland, the CPI-M leader said that many fabricated reports have been published on Poland, moreover, those imperialist powers, which tried to disrupt stability in our country, are now carrying on the same thing in Poland. He said: We supported the Soviet role in Czechoslovakia and will do the same in the case of Poland.

The Politburo expressed regrets over China's support to the aggressive activities of U.S. imperialism. It hoped that the leaders of that great socialist country will extend the same system of self-analysis and redress to foreign policy as they did in domestic affairs. The Politburo also expressed distress on noticing that some opposition groups in China are being used as collaborators with U.S. and British imperialism. It failed to understand how these groups considered the Soviet Union and the socialist world as the principal danger to the independence and sovereignty of the nonaligned people.

The Politburo called upon all units of the party to unleash a large-scale campaign jointly with the patriotic, democratic and leftist forces against the conspiracies of imperialism and to safeguard the security and national solidarity of India. The Politburo believed that the U.S. arming of Pakistan and its extension of support to ASEAN countries and Pol Pot's Kampuchea are aimed at disrupting stability in the whole of South and Southeast Asia.

It becomes obvious from the CPI-M Politburo statement on foreign affairs that it has now come considerably closer to CPI and Soviet views. It seems from its criticism of China and attitude on Poland and Afghanistan that the views of the two communist parties are practically the same on those subjects, however, on domestic affairs the CPI-M is not as eager as the CPI to support Mrs Gandhi.

PAPER SEES PRC FRIENDSHIP AS ALTERNATIVE TO USSR

BK241339 New Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 15 Apr 81 p 6

["Making Friends With China" by S. Nihal Singh, former editor of STATESMAN]

[Text] One must give it to China's strongman, Mr Deng Xiaoping; he made a grandmaster's move in reviving a dialogue with India at this juncture. For never has India's need for friendship with China been greater than it is today as she stands at the cross-road. The only alternative, an unwelcome one for any Indian Government but the most subservient, would be to be sucked into the Soviet orbit.

China realises, as others will in course of time, that she offers the key to India's independence of action, even in terms of a significant improvement in Indo-Pakistani relations and more so with respect to New Delhi's modus vivendi with Washington.

Simply put, the choice for India is stark: Either to be embraced by the Soviet bear hug as an honorary member of the Warsaw Pact or to cope as best she can with the twin dangers of a nuclear Pakistan and a Reagan administration determined to arm Pakistan to the teeth for its own larger purposes. In the latter case, the new U.S. administration is both cynical enough and convinced enough of its case to disregard Indian objections to arming Pakistan.

In real terms, no government in India has an option if Pakistan goes nuclear. The Pakistani bomb will have to be answered by an Indian bomb. The only question that remains to be determined is whether India should begin on its bomb straightaway, given mounting evidence of Pakistan's determination to produce a bomb. Mrs Gandhi's assurance in Parliament of an "appropriate response" was the least she could have given. The truth is that not only is the security environment for India worse than it has been ever before in the past 33 years, but the country's options have also become hopelessly limited. Two factors are largely responsible for this: The Soviet Union's increasing thrust to expand its area of influence through military and other means and a deep-seated feeling in the new U.S. administration that Russia's expansionist moves must be checkmated.

India loses out on both these counts. She has to carry the can of a special relationship with one super power, helpful as it has been in the Bangladesh war in 1971 and earlier and subsequently at the United Nations and in buttressing her defence, but as was proved so conclusively at the Non-Aligned Foreign Ministers' Conference in Delhi, this is becoming an increasing liability as the developing world questions Russian actions. Russia is as imperialist a power today as the Americans have been.

One can question the wisdom of the Reagan administration's moves but one must face the fact that it has decided after the fall of the shah of Iran and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan that Pakistan should be a key element in its strategy. Since Washington looks upon India as a Soviet-allied nation which is not prepared to promote American interests, Indian objections to the arming of Pakistan can have little impact on the Reaganites. There can be no better proof of this than the Reagan administration's preparations to disregard Pakistani nuclear ambitions while refusing to give India timely supplies of nuclear fuel for the Tarapur power reactor.

Whatever one's hopes and opinions about friendship with Pakistan, an Indo-Pakistani understanding can only be a long-haul objective. The orientation of Pakistani policies is to seek security vis-a-vis India by acquiring the strength to balance her through acquisition of weapons with Arab money, through other special arrangements with the Arabs, through using excess military personnel in a mercenary role in oil-rich but technically deficient countries and, of course, through pursuing the nuclear option.

It is clear that India's traditional response of emphasising relations with one super power is hopelessly inadequate in meeting the demands of the new situation. The propaganda theme of a Beijing-Islamabad-Washington axis might serve Soviet interests but is counter-productive as far as India is concerned. Indeed, the only way India can improve her options is to increase her circle of friends, and in this China offers a unique opportunity.

The Chinese leaders have been consistently saying since the visit of the then foreign minister, Mr A.B. Vajpayee, early in 1979 that the border problem can either be resolved through a package deal or set aside to protect other aspects of bilateral relations, but after the abrupt end of Mr Vajpayee's visit and Mrs Gandhi's inexplicable and foolish action in recognising the Heng Samrin regime in Kampuchea, Chinese intentions have not been probed at a high political level. Now with the projected visit of Mr Huang Hua and his team, announced by Mr Deng, India will be in a position to engage the Chinese in discussions.

Delicate and evocative problems can sometimes be better resolved in one full swoop than in laborious negotiations. If Mrs Gandhi could grasp the nettle of the border question during Mr Huang Hua's visit to Delhi, she would have taken a significant step forward. Any dramatic improvement in Sino-Indian relations would signify to both the USA and Pakistan better than mountains of words that India was not tied to Soviet apron-strings.

The Americans would in that event have less cause for worry that a Soviet-aligned India must be balanced by a heavily armed Pakistan capable of looking after American interests. The Pakistanis too would find it harder to sell the line that they were the only reliable friends of the USA and China in the region.

The difficulties in seeking an understanding with China should not be minimised. For one thing, India is dependent upon the Soviet Union, more than she is on any other power, for her defence needs, even apart from the obligations--such as they are--of the Indo-Soviet treaty. Since the Russians tend to be extraordinarily sensitive to any move for a Sino-Indian rapprochement, negotiating with the Chinese will require nimble footwork.

There are besides the political myths about the Chinese propagated for the last two decades, understandably encouraged by the Soviet Union and her loyal band of followers. The communists and their fellow travellers in the various parties in India will doubtless mount a campaign against China, but the one advantage a party subservient to one individual has is that its members can switch overnight from theories of a Beijing-Islamabad-Washington axis to the glories of Chinese civilization.

Perhaps the Chinese realise more clearly than the rest of the world the dangers of pushing India irrevocably into the Soviet camp. While India would in that event lose much of her freedom of action, it would also represent a setback for China as well as the West because the whole of the subcontinent would then come under Russian sway, whatever short-term advantages the Pakistanis might gain.

In a sense, therefore, the size, population and potential of India offer a measure of reassurance, but her base of operation is becoming perilously small. India cannot afford to continue to coast along as a non-aligned nation with a special relationship with one super power.

The country's policy planners presumably believe that they have no option but to give a pro-Soviet tilt to foreign policy until such time as India is capable of looking after her security interests. The new situation would suggest that this is a luxury she can no longer afford.

Mr Deng's is an astute move because the Chinese seek to realise that now is the time to stop India from walking into the Soviet parlour. She has today the option withdrawing from the Russian embrace. Tomorrow she might not have that option. It is now for Mrs Gandhi to grasp the significance of Mr Deng's gesture.

DRA HELICOPTER LANDS; CREW ASKS FOR ASYLUM

BK261523 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1511 GMT 26 Apr 81

[Text] A Soviet built MI-8 helicopter of the Afghan Army landed at (Samundari) airport in Quetta today along with its three crewmen. It has been officially announced that the crewmen have asked for asylum.

AGHA SHAHI INTERVIEWED ON U.S. ARMS, INDIA

BK270602 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 Apr 81

[Text] Foreign Minister Agha Shahi has said that India's fears over proposed U.S. arms aid to Pakistan are unfounded and spoke of need for an armaments dialogue between the two countries. In an interview published in Madras yesterday, the foreign minister said he wished to state categorically that Pakistan will never commit aggression against India. He said the arms Pakistan proposed to acquire would not affect the military balance between the two countries. He added that he did not think that there was any impact on the military balance.

The foreign minister said Pakistan would not seek parity of arms; it could agree on a reasonable ratio. Agha Shahi expressed the hope that the visit of Indian External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao to Pakistan next month would help remove unfounded apprehensions. He added we shall be ready to talk with him sincerely.

INDIAN CHARGES OF PAKISTANI PROPAGANDA DENIED

BK260659 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Apr 81

[Text] A statement was issued from the Pakistani Embassy in New Delhi yesterday which stated that the Government of Pakistan is not responsible for the production and distribution of cassette tapes which satirized Indian Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi. The statement said that the Government of Pakistan highly respects the prominent Indian leader and it cannot allow anything which is disrespectful of her. The statement also said that the Pakistani Embassy is amazed at the statements made in India which have accused Pakistan of responsibility for these records which were produced by some people on their own.

DAWN ATTACKS INDIAN DRIVE TO STOP ARMS PURCHASES

BK261013 Karachi DAWN in English 19 Apr 81 p 7

[Editorial: "Indian Ballyhoo and the Truth"]

[Text] The Indian Government's drive to stop the United States from supplying arms to Pakistan has now risen to a new pitch. Beginning from Prime Minister Gandhi herself, the senior spokesmen for the Indian Foreign Office and the press in India have now joined the campaign to malign Pakistan and impress upon the United States and other major powers New Delhi's deep concern over what it calls a massive induction of arms into Pakistan. Although this campaign has yet to convince anyone of the validity of India's arguments, as is evident from the statements made by American, British and Saudi Arabian leaders, it can not be denied that this hue and cry, in the words of Mr Agha Shahi, is creating an artificial atmosphere of crisis in the Indo-Pakistan relations. The pleas the Indians have been making are the usual ones New Delhi has advanced on every occasion when Pakistan has tried to augment its defence capacity. Thus, the Indian leaders have alleged ad nauseam that the acquisition of arms by Pakistan will upset the regional military balance, threaten the security of India, bring superpower conflict into the area and militate against the basic principles of non-alignment.

The argument about arms to Pakistan upsetting the Indo-Pakistan military balance is too preposterous to bear rational scrutiny. The Indian external affairs secretary, Mr Gonsalves, even went to the extent of suggesting that India found itself weaker than Pakistan, which is obviously a blatant inaccuracy, if it might be put that way. India's military strength is known to be much greater than that of Pakistan not just in terms of manpower and quantity but also in respect of the quality of arms it has acquired. While most of Pakistan's arms date back to the fifties or early sixties and are largely obsolete, India has constantly been equipping its forces with modern sophisticated weapons. It has acquired the latest models of aircraft, tanks and submarines from the USSR, Britain and France. Moreover, the quantum of arms India has purchased from abroad, which is massive by an reckoning, is only one proof of its military capability. The arms it has acquired are by no means all defensive, many of them being designed to enhance the country's capacity to launch a military attack. Secondly, as the report of the Indian Ministry of Defence, 1980-81, released recently, notes, India's five-year defence plan is intended to lead to greater efficiency rather than a mere increase in quantity. Its main thrust is towards modernisation and replacement of equipment to secure greater firepower and mobility and more modern means of communication. It should also be kept in mind that India's capacity to produce arms indigenously is immeasurably greater than Pakistan's. New Delhi is not only producing arms to meet its own requirements and hopes to become self-sufficient in production by the year 2000, it has also emerged as a major arms supplier to other Third World countries. In that context, to speak of India being weaker than Pakistan, as Mr Gonsalves chose to do, or harp on the old theme of the military balance being upset, as Mr Narasimha Rao has been doing, is to presume too much upon other people's credulity.

As for the question of Pakistan's arms acquisition destabilising the region, no such possibility can be contemplated, given India's well established military preponderance in South Asia. The arms Pakistan seeks to purchase are of a defensive nature and are intended to build up its security and defence capability in an inhospitable environment. The situation in Afghanistan has at the moment created a new strategic compulsion for Pakistan to enhance its defence capacity. It is not quite understandable what bearing Islamabad's moves have on its relations with New Delhi. On the contrary, the Pakistan Government has time and again expressed its desire to normalise ties with India. It has also offered to enter into an arrangement with India for mutual arms reduction. In fact, Pakistan's policy has been designed to promote peace and stability in the region on the basis of mutuality and reciprocity, but India has found this unacceptable because in its perception stability can be achieved only if it is imposed under India's domination.

The Indian Government's logic that Pakistan's quest for security militates against non-alignment and will bring the cold war to India's doorsteps will not bear examination. As pointed out by Mr Agha Shahi, Pakistan is not contemplating any military relationship with the United States, moreover, if the terms of Pakistan's arms purchase from the United States are the same as those of the Indo-Soviet agreement, it is difficult to see how Pakistan's non-aligned status will be violated while India retains hers intect. According to Indian allegations, Islamabad will be representing American interests in the region after it has acquired arms from Washington, but on the contrary, it is well-known that Pakistan's first concern is to safeguard its independence and non-alignment. If the cold war has come to the threshold of South Asia, it is to be attributed to the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan which has evoked a strong response from the United States. But if Mrs Gandhi still persists in holding Pakistan responsible for the cold war in the region, it is not really surprising for she has flatly refused to take into account all the implications of the entry of Soviet troops in to Kabul for the security and independence of Afghanistan's neighbours.

RAJA'I MESSAGE ON ANNIVERSARY OF TABAS INCIDENT

LD241410 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Apr 81

[Message from Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i to the Iranian nation on the first anniversary of the "U.S. military aggression on Tabas"--read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. On 24 April last year God Almighty once again blessed us with His favors and yet another of the great Satan's designs against our Islamic homeland was nipped in the bud, thanks to divine power. On the evening of 24 April last year, the Abraham of the era [reference to the United States in analogy with Abraham al-Ashram, an Ethiopian king who attempted to demolish the Al-Qa'bah Mosque [in Mecca] driven by its desire to put out the divine light, mounted the iron elephants of the era and attacked our Islamic homeland. But this time the shifting sands of the desert cast dust in the eyes of the enemy and the deceit of the deceivers was turned against them. And then the unbelievers plotted and planned, and God, too, planned, and God is the supreme planner. [Koranic verse]

The world-devouring United States--which had not benefited from its acolytes' daily provocations and riots instigated by some pretext or another in the various nooks and crannies of our Islamic homeland and which had found our Muslim nation more than ever determined to wage battle against it--entertaining the crass thought of defeating the Islamic revolution, stupidly resorted to a military assault. However, despite all its calculations and the mobilizing of its vast arsenal, it suffered an ignominious defeat when it came face to face with a sandstorm and could not achieve a single damned thing.

So, once again, continuing its plots, aggressive imperialism incited the venal regime of the infidel Saddam to launch a military attack against our Islamic homeland, and this blasphemous regime bombarded our cities, residential areas, schools, hospitals, houses and mosques in order to smash the will of the heroic Islamic nation and pave the way for the crossing of the great Satan into the region. But our heroic Islamic nation has valiantly defended its Islamic, revolutionary dignity and honor and demonstrated to the world aggressors its desire to remain independent and its intention to continue to be a revolutionary model to the world's meek. With the succour of God and thanks to its own unity, it will most certainly succeed in these aspirations.

The plots of aggressive imperialism and the great Satan against our Islamic revolution have not yet ended, but the foe, no matter how great and mighty, is weak and helpless when faced with your will and your revolutionary unity.

I warn the youth in our Islamic homeland to remain vigilant against the plots of the great Satan. They should also know that the perpetuation of the Islamic revolution and the realization of its aims can only be achieved by relying on Almighty God, thanks to the monolithic unity of our Muslim nation.

Victory belongs to the world's meek; our heroic Islamic nation, inspired by the tenets of Islam and the guidelines of the imam of the Islamic nation, is capable of crushing ever bigger plots, God willing. Oh ye who believe! If ye will aid God, he will aid you and plant your feet firmly. [Koranic verse]

Cherishing the hope for the victory of Islam and the Muslims.

[Signed] Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, this 24th day of April 1981

MONTAZERI: AWACS PLANES TO BE USED AGAINST IRAN

ID241312 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Apr 81

[Excerpts] Today, on the eve of the auspicious birthday anniversary of the great lady of the Islamic world, the great pious one, Her Holiness Fatimah az-Zahra', may God grant peace upon her, and concurrent with the ceaseless attacks by the self-sacrificing combatants of Islam on the army of blasphemy on the battlefronts between truth and falsehood, a great crowd of the Muslim and right-seeking people of Qom, the city of uprising and martyrdom, unified in the ranks at Friday prayers, which were held at the holy shrine of Her Holiness Ma'sumah, may peace be upon her, in this city, once again expressed their unconditional support for the soldiers of His Holiness Mahdi, the imam of the era, may God hasten his noble advent.

At the glorious ceremonies of the Friday prayers held today in Qom, first Mr Sa'idi, who is in charge of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in Qom, made a speech and then Ayatollah Montazeri read the prayer sermon.

Referring to Kissinger's provocations at the At-Ta'if conference, regarding the creation of differences between the Shi'ites and the Sunnis and the weakening of the Isiamic Republic, the journey of Haig, the U.S. secretary of state, to the Middle East and also the journey of Thatcher, the British prime minister, to some of the Middle Eastern countries, Ayatollah Montazeri said: Thatcher said on her journey: Britain wants to (?strengthen) its role in these countries. Considering the fact that Britain has been ruling in Islamic countries for many years and that America will equip Saudi Arabia with American AWACS aircraft only on the condition that that country recognizes Israel and does not intervene in Palestine, this means nothing other than that these aircraft must be used against the Islamic revolution of Iran.

Regarding all these incitements, Ayatollah Montazeri considered all of them as being interrelated, especially in view of the fact that simulataneously the wave of rumors [illegible] Sunni and Shi'ite regions is increasing, and that suddenly those people have emerged who want to put Kissinger's plots into action in the name of defending rhe rule of Shi'ism.

DETAILS OF 24-26 APR KHOMEYNI ACTIVITIES REPORTED

Women's Day Message

LD241950 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Apr 81

["Message from Ayatollah Ruhollah on 24 April, birthday of Fatimah az-Zahra and Women's Day--read by announcer]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. I congratulate the noble Iranian nation, particularly the esteemed ladies, on the most auspicious birthday of the immaculate Fatimah az-Zahra, being the best day to declare Women's Day.

I am proud of the glorious Iranian women. Such a profound change has taken place in them which has resulted in foiling the diabolical role by foreign plotters and their dishonorable internal lackeys, people like profligate poets, mercenary writers and the propaganda apparatus, which lasted for more than 50 years. Our women proved that honorable and Muslim women will not be misled and will not be vulnerable to these sinister plots of the West and Westernized people.

God bless the mothers who have sent their strong young men to the battlefield to defend the right, and who take pride in their glorious martyrdom. May repugnance encompass the dolls, dwelling in shameful palaces in and outside the country, devoting themselves to detestable and beastly living, thinking of nothing but promoting corruption.

May the criminal tongues and hands of those who by their utterances and writings are attempting to crush the Islamic Republic and land our dear homeland in the lap of the left or right be thwarted.

Eternal greetings to the committed women who are right now engaged in rearing children, teaching the illiterates, teaching human sciences and the profound Koranic culture. God's blessing be upon those women who have achieved the honor of martyrdom in this revolution and in defending the homeland as well as on those who are serving the disabled and patients in hospitals and clinics. Greetings to the mothers who have honorably lost their young men.

May Women's Day be a blessed day for the committed women of Islamic countries. We hope that the society of women will awaken and rise from the artificial sleep and oblivion imposed on them by plunderers and rise to help those who are misled, leading women to their sublime position. We hope that women in other Islamic countries will learn from the miraculous changes won by the Iranian women as a result of the great Islamic revolution and will try to improve their societies and achieve freedom and independence in their own countries. May God's blessings favor the honorable Islamic and Iranian women. Greetings to the true believers.

[Signed] Ruhollah Musavi Khomeyni, 24 April 1981

Meets Khamene'i, Chamran, Commanders

GF251209 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 25 Apr 81

[Text] Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, received in separate audiences this morning Khamene'i and Chamran, his representatives on the Supreme Defense Council.

His eminence also received Brigadier General Fallahi, the acting chief of the Joint Staff; Brigadier General Zahir Nezhad, ground forces commander, Colonel Fakuri, air force commander; Admiral Afzali, naval forces commander; Colonel Dasturi, police commander; and Colonel (Najafbaki), assistant gendarmerie commander. The commanders held talks with his eminence.

Meets Bani-Sadr, Raja'i, Others

LD261404 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Apr 81

[Text] The Central News Bureau reports that President Bani-Sadr; Prime Minister Raja'i; Minister of Interior Mahdavi-Kani; Minister of State in Charge of Executive Affairs Nabavi; Mr Khaz'ali, member of the Council of Guardians; Mohammadi Gilani, president of the Islamic Revolution Court of the Central Province; Molla Hasani, a Majlis deputy; and Musavi Tabrizi, president of the Islamic Revolution Court in Tabriz, met separately with Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, this morning. At the end of these meetings, the Central News Bureau interviewed Mr Bani-Sadr, Mr Baja'i and Mr Mahdavi-Kani. We draw your attention to these interviews:

[Begin recording] [Question] Would you please tell us what issues were raised in the presence of the imam?

[Bani-Sadr] Many issues were raised in the presence of the imam.

[Question] Would you please elaborate?

[Answer] The war, the war fronts and issues connected with the war were discussed, and other internal affairs were discussed, too.

[Question] Would you please give more details, if possible?

[Answer] Providing explanations on some of the issues is not possible. Other points can be elucidated.

[Question] Would you please...

[Answer] About the war, the situation is good on some of the fronts and the imam was satisfied; we hope the situation will improve even further. This was explained to the imam. The 10-point order issued by the imam and the fact that it should be implemented exactly as the imam has pointed out, was discussed. Other affairs were discussed, too.

[Question] What about the current affairs of the country, Mr Bani-Sadr?

[Answer] The current affairs raised were the budget, the plans submitted to the Majlis, foreign policy and others.

[Question] In the western parts of the country there were some clashes recently. As commander in chief, would you comment on this?

[Answer] I would not like to express my opinion because of the war at hand and other problems. But I would like to advise these people not to play with the destiny of their country. These clashes should not take place. They should allow us to deal with the enemy first, with all our might, and then when the enemy has been thrown out of the country, we can sit down and patiently and logically view the situation.

[Question] Would you remark on the victories gained in the war?

[Answer] Victories in the war; we prepare plans to maintain our own facilities and destroy the capabilities of the enemy and implement them with cooperation from all armed forces and by the grace of God these plans have up to now been successful.

[Question] We departed from the issue. As the implementor of the laws, would you please tell us what you consider to be the main factor in these clashes?

[Answer indistinct]

[Question] Thank you very much. Mr Raja'i, would you please tell us what were the main issues discussed in the presence of the imam, and what the imam's guidelines were?

[Raja'i] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. While briefing the imam on the general state of the country, we discussed the problems in Kordestan generally and in Western Azarbayjan specifically. The main issue raised was that, God willing, in the future the social and political affairs of Kordestan Province, Western Azarbayjan and Kermanshah would be dealt with through legal channels. The country's Security Council was discussed and we hope to be able to show the results to our dear compatriots in the near future.

[Question] What were the imam's guidelines in this respect?

[Answer] As the imam said at the beginning of this year, this year should be the year of the law, and should stand out as the year in which the affairs of the country returned to their legal channel. The imam expressed his satisfaction and said that the necessary steps should be taken.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much. Mr Mahdavi-Kani, would you please tell us if the midterm elections were also discussed?

[Mahdavi-Kani] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. About the elections, God willing, if the single bill ratified by the Majlis, which was submitted to Mr Bani-Sadr, to be communicated to the government, is communicated to us, then elections will be held very soon. [end recording]

NABAVI INTERVIEWED ON DOMESTIC SITUATION, ARMS

LD262153 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Apr 81

[Interview with Minister of State for Executive Affairs Behzad Nabavi in Tehran on 26 April--recorded]

[Text] [Question] Mr Nabavi, these domestic disturbances and clashes which we have experienced, particularly in the last week, have caused a problem in society. In several previous interviews you have said that the government will act decisively to preserve calm, but we have not yet seen (?much) action in this regard or maybe it has not been effective. What is your view on this?

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. In fact, the clashes are the aftermath of the defeat which opponents of the revolution have suffered in their previous plots. They tried to bring defeat upon the revolution by taking advantage of the war, but they failed. They tried to take undue advantage of disputes between officials and to bring about a civil war in the country, but on the imam's command this plot was neutralized. They waited a little while and realized that they could not seize on any particular excuse. So now they are causing clashes with or without pretext. For example, in some towns they are trying to occupy a district, in some towns they attacked offices of the parties which they had earlier accused of attacking them, and this is taking place openly. In the camps they try to incite some of the brother victims of the war against the people over certain shortcomings that do exist--for example, inciting them against the citizens of Shiraz--or create clashes. Or else they do similar things in Tehran University on the pretext of reopening the university.

The only place where they had an excuse concerned the reopening of the university. The aim of this was to prevent the cultural revolution from being implemented, so that the cultural revolution would in fact fail to achieve its objectives, so that the university would be reopened for them once again to produce photocopied statements or to hatch a plot in Kordestan, in Gonbad or Sistan va Baluchestan, for when the university was open they were not attending lectures. These plots exist because they have realized that they can achieve nothing in other ways. So they have come out into the open.

Of course, the security organizations are on the alert. The main obstacle is that we still have not all adopted a decisive, specific and all-round policy with regard to political groups and political freedoms. When I say all of us, I mean all the officials concerned. Apart from that the government has declared its program in this regard right from the start. The point is, however,that there is also a need for the cooperation of other officials to implement the program. Efforts have been made in this direction.

The statement issued by the office of the prosecutor general some 20 days ago was in this direction. Officials concerned want to decisively clarify their position with regard to political freedoms and to political parties and groups. Anyone who wants to engage in political activity in this country should do so on the basis of certain criteria. On the other hand, if he does not want to engage in political activity but wants to take up arms, then we are also ready to enter the arena, and there is no problem. The only point is, however, that there can be no double standards. The opponents of the regime cannot, on the one hand, strike and martyr brother reconstruction crusade personnel in Tajrish or assassinate them and, on the other hand, come to Tehran and try, for example, to sell newspapers on Mossadeq Avenue. We will prevent this very firmly in the coming days.

They have realized that we intend to be decisive about these matters. So they are engaged in preemptive measures, as it were. They are also a little apprehensive lest the war end in victory for the army of Islam and the revolution for, once the war ends in victory, they will never be able to pursue their activity. They want to take advantage of the fact that most of our brother guardsmen or many of our committed forces are at the front, and thus implement the program which they intended to carry out by taking advantage of disputes between officials.

I must advise my committed official colleagues here that they should be careful that these groups, as the imam has also stated, are those who do themselves a physical injury to blame the guards. For example, they try--and they have ordered their supporters to this effect--to get their supporters involved in clashes so that they can get into jail. Once in jail they refuse to give their names, since in the Islamic republican order there no longer exists the method employed by SAVAK whereby a prisoner was whipped a few times to make him stop behaving thus and start pleading. So in practice this lack of harsh treatment is abused. They tell all their supporters to get into prison; to go and create artificial clashes so that they will be thrown in jail. Our compatriots should be very careful not to be deceived by these plans. We often observe that they are trying to bring about an artificial clash; we should not fall for it until, God willing, the relevant officials and organizations have declared their cordinated policy. Once this is done everyone will know how each group should be treated.

[Question] Does what you have in mind concern the approval of the bill on parties?

[Answer] The bill regarding the parties is in the Majlis. We should declare our general policy before the bill has been ratified, for in these conditions we cannot operate without a policy. The Majlis is also dealing with the matter quite rapidly.

[Question] Regarding the $56 million given for the purchase of arms, we have had reports that this sum has been paid and it cannot be stopped. It has also been decided that a French court should deal with the issue. What new reports do you have in this regard?

[Answer] Information that I have also indicates that some of this sum has been paid. We also have another information to the effect that probably the goods have also reached our army as well [as heard]. Because the Western press has greatly sensationalized this issue and since, unfortunately, some sections of the domestic press which are seeking to find something to expose the government have also made an issue out of this. [sentence as heard]

Now look here, we are supposed to be neither for the East nor for the West, that is to say, if we are not supposed to buy arms from America, we must get into the world arms market. It is impossible to sit on the fence and watch a war going on for 7 months. Whoever wants to engage in war needs equipment, arms and spare parts. Since we could go to neither Russia nor America for them, naturally such markets were exploited. There have been hundreds of successful cases [of arms purchases on the open market] and you can see the results in the victory in the war, on the fronts; you see no shortages at the front; yet, no one makes any comment about that. But when there is one instance of difficulty, which is natural when one does not want to proceed through official channels, all this undue noise and din is created about the matter.

I would like to say that, first, we have most probably not lost the money; and, second, all the military and civilian officials have been involved in this purchase; the army has corrdinated with the Defense Ministry in conducting the business. When someone comes and says he can provide arms from a given source at a time when arms are sorely needed at the front we will never be able to say: No, we do not accept; the source is unreliable. In such circumstances we are forced to take a certain risk; our risks, fortunately, have not resulted in a great deal of harm. In this case, too, we will be able to recover the money with the efforts which we are making, God willing.

Questions on Economy, Clashes

LD261422 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Apr 81

[Text] Behzad Nabavi, the government spokesman, took part in a press conference at noon today and answered questions put to him by reporters. The Central News Bureau reports that the government spokesman said, elaborating on the budget: The efforts made by the government during the current year have mainly been directed toward creating employment opportunities and expanding the plans to create employment. In this respect the National Gas Company has been asked to provide for as many gas consumers as possible and the government will undertake to provide the budget. He added: The National Gas Company has agreed to supply gas to 100,000 new consumers during the current year. The government spokesman said that 55 billion tomans have been allocated for war expenses and to provide for the needs of war refugees. He added: We do not have a budget deficit for the current year and the government has directed all its attention to revolutionary institutions. On the question of shortages and hoarding, he said the hoarders will be dealt with through the measures taken by the headquarters for economic mobilization.

About the clashes and bombings during the past week all over the country, he said: The government should clarify its policy and position with regard to these groups, and the government has begun to do so by the statement issued by the office of the public prosecutor of the revolution. This is a beginning. When we have clarified our position, with the help of the people we will be able to neutralize these conspiracies.

BANI-SADR WARNS AGAINST SUSPENSION OF ELECTIONS

LD262041 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Apr 81

[Excerpts] President Bani-Sadr has written to the interior minister on the subject of byelections, warning him that the suspension of elections in constituencies without deputies is contrary to clause 68 of the Constitution because it lacks a proposal by the president, approval by three fourths of the Majlis deputies and confirmation by the Council of the Guardians.

The president's letter also says: Clause 13 of the legislation concerning the Council of the Guardians' right to supervise Majlis elections clearly states that byelections in the constituencies whose elections have been suspended or cancelled must take place at the first possible opportunity. Clause 6 of the legislation concerning Majlis elections, which has been ratified by the Revolution Council, also clearly states that such elections must be held in 1 day and in at least 10 hours. And so in the event of a decision not to hold elections in the remaining constituencies in 1 day, the Interior Ministry must have sufficient reason not to hold the election in certain constituencies and submit them to me to present them to the Majlis.

I would like to remind you once again to submit as soon as possible the reasons for the decision not to hold the byelections in certain constituencies in the current circumstances, so that if they are considered justified I may place the necessary proposal before the Majlis; thus, some regions of the country will no longer remain without a deputy, something which is contrary to clause 68 of the Constitution.

BANI-SADR, GUARDS CORPS COMMANDER MEET 25 APR

LD251326 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Apr 81

[Text] According to PARS, Morteza Reza'i, the commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, this morning met and conferred with Bani-Sadr, the commander in chief of the armed forces.

During this meeting they exchanged views on issues related to the guards corps and on the need for more coordination and cooperation between the guards corps and Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and other combat forces on the battlefronts.

SUPREME DEFENSE COUNCIL MEETS IN TEHRAN 25 APR

LD252206 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 25 Apr 81

[Text] President Bani-Sadr chaired a meeting of the Supreme Defense Council tonight in Tehran that was attended by Prime Minister Mohammad Raja'i; 'Ali Khamene'i and Mostafa Chamran, the imam's representatives on the Supreme Defense Council; Brig Gen Valiollah Fallahi, the acting chief of the Joint Staff; Col Javad Fakuri, the minister of defense and commander of the air force; and Morteza Reza'i, the commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps.

According to PARS, this session reviewed the overall situation on the battlefronts and exchanged views on methods to confront the enemy. In an interview after the meeting, Mr Khamene'i, spokesman for the Supreme Defense Council, said that the issues discussed were mainly reports on the situation on the southern and western fronts and General Fallahi's report on the overall situation at the war fronts. He added: Since I personally traveled to the western part of the country, I submitted a report on outstanding problems in the west which needed to be discussed. Questions regarding publicity were also discussed.

Mr Khamene'i went on: After the imam's 10-point order, the Supreme Defense Council no longer has any responsibility for foreign policies, (?education) and publicity campaigns regarding the war. But, because the council should be informed of these issues in order to carry out its own duties, naturally it does hear reports on these issues. But taking decisions on these issues does not take place in the Supreme Defense Council since it does not fall within the limits of the council's responsibilities.

Commenting on the general situation at the war front, he said: The situation on the western front as well as other places is very good while on other fronts, it is not so good.

SECURITY COUNCIL DISCUSSES FARS PROVINCE

LD262105 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Apr 81

[Text] The Central News Bureau reports that the country's Security Council held a session today chaired by Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i. During the meeting Interior Minister Mahdavi-Kani, representatives and leaders of the revolution guards corps, army, state police and gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic of Iran and officials of Fars Province discussed the province's issues and certain decisions were made.

PREAGENDA SPEECHES AT MAJLIS SESSION REPORTED

LD261516 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Apr 81

[Excerpts] According to the Central News Bureau, the Islamic Consultative Assembly held an open session today. The session began at 0800 with the recitation of verses from the noble Koran, and was chaired by Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

The first preagenda speaker in today's session was 'Ali Qa'emi, deputy from Babolsar. He said: The northern region is a sensitive region from the point of view of agriculture and labor issues. Therefore, the enemies of the revolution pay particular attention to this region.

He went on to say: In the past 8 months we have witnessed severe clashes in the northern region. Most of these clashes have been artificial and carried out by opportunist groupings who, using youngsters and students--particularly female students--have aimed at pitting people against each other while pretending to be among the oppressed and heroes. He warned the country's authorities about this and asked for reinforcement of the revolution guards corps and committees in this region of the country. He asked the Interior Ministry to show more care in the appointment of executive authorities.

The next speaker, Ahmad 'Alizadeh, deputy from Qa'emshahr, referred to recent incidents in this town which led to the death and injury of a number of people. He said: There are dependent groups which, in the present sensitive conditions in Iranian society, throw stones at Muslims and Islam and place obstacles in the way of the progress of the Islamic revolution of Iran. He demanded that the country's authorities pay attention to the recent incidents in the northern region and should specify the so-called political groupings.

Gowhar osh-Shari'eh Dastgheys, a Tehran deputy, also referred to the recent incidents in the northern cities and the hullabaloo created by the political groups in this region. She also pointed out the obstructions caused on Women's Day by members and supporters of these groups against the meeting of Muslim and committed women who had gathered to listen to a speech, she demanded an investigation into their functions and activities and asked the country's authorities to investigate the state of education, radio and television in the northern region.

'Abbas Yusefi, deputy from Shahr-e Kord, said: The political groups in this city have ransacked the offices of the Islamic Republican Party, ruined the building and set fire to all the religious books in this building. They have clashed with the people and wounded some of them. But the people, for the sake of the imam's message urging the maintainance of peace, have not reacted and have asked for a legal investigation into the activities of these elements.

The last speaker in today's session, 'Abdolvahhab Qasemi, deputy from Sari, referring to the incidents caused by the political groupings, said: Concurrent with the successes of the Islamic combatants in the war zones and the imminent fall of Saddam, those who worry about the masses and keep away from the masses have revealed their independence on the superpowers. By creating turmoil, they try to obscure the defeat of their master, Saddam. He demanded legal and necessary measures regarding these incidents.

Today's session of the Islamic Consultative Assembly ended at 1230. The next session will be held at 0730 next Tuesday.

TEHRAN DEPUTY CALLS FOR VIGILANCE AGAINST PLOTS

LD241350 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Apr 81

[Excerpt] Masses of revolutionary people of Tehran eagerly rushed to the meeting place of God's followers at Tehran University today to thank Him for the victory of the self-sacrificing combatants of Islam in the battle of truth against falsehood. They went to rub their foreheads on the soil in order to show the enemies of Islam that the etneral union between them and the creator of the universe cannot be broken.

According to the Central News Bureau Mr 'Ali Akbar Nateq Nuri, Tehran deputy at the Islamic Consultative Assembly, made a speech before today's Friday sermon describing the current situation in the country and the intensification of conspiracies hatched by hypocrites and counterrevolutionaries at the time of victory of our homeland's combatants on the battle-fields against Iraqi Ba'thist infidels. He demanded that the government be decisive and that the people be more vigilant, as though they were on the battlefield, in order to implement Islamic laws in the best possible manner.

In another part of his speech, addressing the judiciary, chief justice of the Supreme Court, the Supreme Judicial Council and the revolution prosecutor general, he said: Do not be afraid of those who spread poison. America, after being defeated on battlefields and elsewhere, is now thinking of ways to weaken our revolutionary foundations and organs and is creating an unfavorable climate of opinion against you, the government and the Majlis. But do not be afraid.

He added: How can we put up with those groups which commit such crimes these days? How can we tolerate such crimes being committed in front of the Tehran University gate by a handful of lackeys, subservient to East and West, and mercenary groups and criminal hypocrites, whose files I cannot present to you in this short time? How can we tolerate these crimes at a time when our dear ones are laying down their lives for Islam in the eastern and western parts of the country?

He also said: You will notice that these groups created chaos in Amol, Tehran and several other cities exactly at the time when our brother revolution guards, dear military brothers and self-sacrificing members of the reconstruction crusade were bravely creating epics in the west of the country by occupying sensitive hills and key locations and killing the enemy. These are U.S. plots.

OIL PRODUCTION, EXPORT FIGURES ANNOUNCED

LD261428 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Apr 81

[Text] PARS reports that the Public Relations Office of the Ministry of Oil announced that the country's average crude oil production per day during the first 6 months of the past year was more than 1.6 million barrels. Efforts have been made to produce crude oil together with its accompanying natural gas in order to stop the wastage of this gas.

According to the same report, the Ministry of Oil has succeeded in raising the overall capacity of oil refined in the country to a daily average of 1 million barrels, thus achieving the highest figure of oil refined ever in the history of Iran's oil industry. On the export and sales of crude oil, too, considering the country's policies with regard to prices and the ban on oil sales to the enemies of the Islamic Republic, and despite the problems originating from the economic embargo imposed on Iran by colonialist countries, the Ministry of Oil has succeeded in exporting crude oil from Iran's oil ports according to the figures set by the government.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUES 479-482

479: Battles in West, South

LD241820 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Apr 81

[Communique 479 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The dear compatriots are hereby informed of some of the operations carried out by the combatants of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the situations at battlefronts during the past 24 hours:

Following the successful and extensive operations capturing the Bazi Deraz heights, the combatants of the forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran courageously captured two other heights in the region. In these operations, the combatants of Islam, while dealing fatal blows to the mercenaries of the Iraqi Army, continued their war to advance further and followed the aggressive enemy to its death. The number of enemy personnel captured and evacuated behind the front lines has reached 120.

Yesterday, exchanges of fire on other western fronts between our forces and Saddam's mercenaries sporadically continued and on the Kan-e Sakht and Konjancham fronts the exchange of fire was more intense.

Iraqi positions on Abadan-Khuninshahr fronts came under artillery and heavy weapon fire by our forces, as a result of which three tanks, one ammunition depot, four entrenchments, an observation post and an enemy gathering point were destroyed and a number of their personnel were either killed or wounded. In these operations some of the pipelines and five fuel tanks in (?Al-Faw) and enemy positions were set on fire. Iraqi mercenaries, following their inhuman instinct and nature opened fire on residential areas in Abadan using artillery and long-range weapons and inflicted some damage. The exchange of fire continued on the (Arvand) front and five trenches, two vehicles, two ammunition depots, two observation posts, one heavy machinegun position and one enemy gathering point were hit and destroyed by the heavy weapons fire of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Because the mercenaries of the Iraqi Army opened artillery fire on Susangerd, the combatants of the Ground Forces responded by shelling Iraqi positions on this front using artillery and mortars and succeeded in destroying a mortar, one vehicle, one dump truck, two heavy machineguns and one enemy trench. Yesterday exchange of fire continued on the Shush front. Several planes belonging to the Iraqi invading Armed forces, which had intended to attack two of our border towns, were forced to flee when confronted by the antiaircraft defenses of the armed forces.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

480: Bazi Deraz Recaptured

LD242150 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 24 Apr 81

[Communique 480 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Dear Iranian Muslim compatriots: As a result of continued support and fatherly guidelines given by the imam of the nation, as well as the wise guidance by the commanders of the Islamic Iranian Armed Forces, the armed forces combatants, enjoying complete cohesion and cooperation with the revolution guards corps, the brave gendarmerie personnel, the tribal mobilization forces and all other popular forces, succeeded today in recapturing hills No 1100 and 1150 on the Bazi Deraz heights.

During today's operations the ground forces' Airborne Division personnel and other armed forces combatants succeeded in destroying 14 enemy tanks and in capturing 2 of Saddam's mercenaries' tanks. Moreover, the airborne pilots blew up two enemy helicopters during a dogfight. The Iraqi Army suffered considerable casualties in today's battle; the exact figure will subsequently be made available to the noble nation. As of this afternoon the Iraqi POW's transferred behind the frontline now total 379.

The Joint Staff of the Islamic armed forces hereby expresses its gratitude for the cooperation rendered by the revolution guards corps, gendarmerie, the tribal mobilization forces and other combative popular forces in Gilan-e Gharb and Sar-e Pol-e Zahab. It hopes that such cooperation, the results of which have been repeatedly demonstrated, will be extended both on the battlefields and in other areas.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

481: Successes Against Iraqis

LD251902 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Apr 81

[Communique 481 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Following their recent victories, the fighting forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran have maintained their complete superiority and have added to their victories during the past 24 hours.

The air force, in operations carried out across the border, bombed supply depots of the Iraqi Army in the Basra region and inflicted heavy damage on the enemy. Air force fighters have been protecting Iranian skies and in the southwest near Ahvaz one invading Iraqi plane was hit by a rocket fired by one of our fighter planes and was downed.

During this period several enemy planes which violated the airspace over several towns in the south and west were followed by air force fighters, were fired on by our antiaircraft batteries and were forced to flee before they were able to launch an attack.

The heroes of the army Airborne Division opened fire on the enemy in their reconnaissance missions and in these operations destroyed four tanks, seven cannons, nine trenches and a quantity of ammunition belonging to the aggressors. Forty of Saddam's forces were killed, and six of them were captured by our forces. The heroes of the ground forces, in step with their fighting brothers, continued their efforts to crush the enemy and push them back. In the [name indistinct] district of Ahvaz, a number of our courageous patrols confronted the enemy and destroyed a truck, killing or wounding 35 Iraqis.

On the Abadan front, our artillery fire hit enemy trenches and assembly points, destroying some enemy equipment and killing some enemy personnel. On other fronts and battle areas, exchanges of artillery fire continued between our champion forces and Saddam's weakening army, with the army of Islam having the upper hand.

On one of the western fronts, an armored personnel carrier, two tanks and an enemy vehicle were destroyed and a number of Iraqi personnel were killed. Saddam's forces, who are incapable of confronting our forces face to face and are unable to fight like men, opened fire with their artillery and long-range rockets on residential areas in Ahvaz and Abadan and inflicted damage and losses on the champion residents of these cities.

482: Qasr-e Shirin, Ahvaz

LD261742 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Apr 81

[Communique 482 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Militant, Muslim Iranian compatriots: This is to inform you of the situation on the battlefronts of truth and falsehood over the past 24 hours.

1. This morning, one intruding Iraqi MiG was hit by an Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force fighter in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region and was shot down. At 1120 today, an Iraqi helicopter was downed and its crew killed in the Qasr-e Shirin region by the fire of the selfless air defense members of the army of Islam. Yesterday, enemy positions in the Qasr-e Shirin region were attacked by the quick-flying hawks of the air force and substantial damage was infliced upon the enemy. In this attack, Iraqi Army personnel abandoned their positions in panic and fled.

2. Exchange of fire between our forces and the enemy continued today in the Ahvaz region and, as a result of the artillery fire of the militant units of the ground forces, one personnel carrier, two tanks and one enemy vehicle were destroyed and a number of Iraqi personnel were killed or wounded. In the same region a patrol group of Islam's self-sacrificing personnel succeeded in setting ablaze an Iraqi Army truck and in killing about 25 enemy personnel.

3. This morning, the enemy directed its long-range artillery fire on the heroic city of Ahvaz and carried out an air raid against the heroic city of Abadan. In these attacks, several homes were damaged, one person was martyred and a number of our valiant compatriots were injured.

4. Exchange of fire continued on other southern fronts, and in the Dezful region the mighty fighters of Islam set ablaze two enemy ammunition dumps and killed several Iraqis. In the Susangerd region, Islam's self-sacrificers destroyed one enemy tank and two ammunition dumps.

5. Yesterday a single-engined gendarmerie aircraft crashed in the vicinity of Karaj because of a technical fault and its pilot and copilot were martyred. Meanwhile, on 24 April three of the brave fighters of the Ground Forces and one of the warriors of the Gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic of Iran achieved the honor of martyrdom on the country's southern and western fronts.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

IRAQI LOSSES IN BAZI DERAZ FIGHTING REPORTED

LD261124 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Apr 81

[Summary] "According to PARS, fighter aircraft of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran this morning downed one MiG and one helicopter in the Bazi Deraz-Qasr-e Shirin axis, and the selfless defenders of Islam inflicted considerable damage on Saddam at-Tikriti's forces. The same report indicates that our military brothers, the Islamic revolution guards and the selfless combatants of the Airborne Division and mobilization forces, are pounding the enemy's positions and installations."

Our forces also continued their operations to capture the Bazi Deraz heights today. "In these operations, 536 Iraqi mercenaries have been captured by our heroes and the number of enemy killed or wounded is in excess of 1,000. Also, in the operations during the past 4 days in this region, the enemy lost 30 tanks, 3 helicopters and 1 aircraft." Reports from the western fronts indicate that the battle continues in Meymak and on other fronts. In Bandi Kabud, 20 of Saddam's forces were killed.

VOICE OF IRAN REPORTS ON ANTIREGIME BASES

NC241350 (Clandestine) Voice of Iran in Persian 1805 GMT 23 Apr 81

[Text] In the small city of [name indistinct] in (?Khav) district, high school students recently organized a massive street demonstration and were joined by people who were disgusted with the situation. The revolution guards were unable to resist them. However, since (?they have asked for relief), the possibility of strong clashes exists during the next few days in the city.

In Quchan, one of the strong antiregime bases, the revolution guards have a structure much stronger than those in other Khorasan cities. The patriotic Kurds of Quchan, who are mostly armed, recently organized a massive antiregime demonstration together with the students and people. Some (?provincial) officials who are [words indistinct] also participated in these demonstrations.

The city of Darreh Gaz is also completely anti-Khomeyni. Supporters of Dr Bakhtiar in the city carried out extensive activities and the slogans of "Long live Bakhtiar" and "Bakhtiar, you were right" can be seen on the walls and doors. The Iran Party in Darreh Gaz also informed the people of the regime's true nature.

For months now the situation in Gonabad has been very tense. The people are still mourning for their dear ones who died on 3 February in clashes with revolution guards. Reports have been received that the black-clad residents of Gonabad are preparing for antiregime demonstrations (?in memory) of their dear ones.

Meanwhile, Mashhad has become the antiregime base in Khorasan. During the past 3 or 4 months the people of Mashhad have repeatedly disgraced the regime in [words indistinct] and marches. Most important of all is the fact that the theological center of Mashhad, led by antiregime clergy who consider Khomeyni and infidel and his Islam blasphemy, have turned Mashhad into a hotbed of rebellion.